

**Town Of Bedford  
Finance Committee  
April 28, 2016, 7:30PM  
Selectmen's Meeting Room**

*Members Present:*

Ben Thomas, David Powell, Elizabeth McClung, Richard Bowen, Stephen Steele, Stephen Carluccio, Karen Dunn and Thomas Busa.

Absent: Paul Mortenson

Quorum: Yes

*Others Present:*

Finance Director: Victor Garofalo

***Proceedings:***

*Meeting called to order at 7:30 by Stephen Steele, Committee Chairman.*

*Motion for the meeting minutes of March 24, 2016: postponed due to a lack of present quorum.*

**Agenda Item A: Reorganization of Finance Committee**  
*Nominations are made for fiscal year 2017*

**Motion:** Ben Thomas recommends that Stephen Steele continue as Chair for the duration of the next cycle, FY2017.

Motion Passed.

6:0:1

**Motion:** Thomas Busa recommends that Ben Thomas continue as Vice Chair for the duration of the next cycle, FY2017.

Motion Passed.

6:0:1

**Motion:** David Powell recommends that Elizabeth McClung continue as Clerk for the duration of the next cycle, FY2017.

Motion Passed.

7:0:0

**Agenda Item B: Town Meeting Recap**  
*The committee discusses 2016 ATM events*

- The committee felt adequately prepared for their role in the Annual Town Meeting due to prior planning efforts.

- Although pleased with their own committee's role, it was felt that portions of the annual town meeting went off track. One example being the communication system.
- The committee agrees that thought provoking ideas were raised during town meeting. It is believed that certain topics could have been more thoroughly vetted beforehand. It was identified that for some issues, the lack of a topic expert caused hindrance to complete understanding.
- The committee entertained the idea of appointing a topic expert to aid FinCom when addressing subjects outside of their own expertise. This will ensure that necessary questions are asked up front and will enable members of FinCom to make more informed decisions
- Infrastructure connectivity and the town communication system are discussed. Alternatives to the proposed dedicated line are brought up, including the possibility of using Fios.
- Success standards are discussed in regard to the proposed transit pilot program. It is determined that success criteria are documented in past FinCom minutes; this set of criteria will be used for gauging program achievement in the future.
- Concern for the current BLT is eased when it is informed that the recorded minutes outline an agreement to obtain new ridership independent, not at the expense of current BLT ridership. The committee agrees that regular reporting is crucial for the oversight of the Pilot Transit Program.
- Concern is noted over the current school plans which are seen as underfunded
- It is advised that the committee review the matter of Capital Project funding. It is suggested that the funds currently allocated to Capital Projects exceed the present needs. It is recommended that if Capital Projects do not have the capacity to spend the funds allowed to them, perhaps funds should be allocated elsewhere.
- In consideration of the unused funds, it is questioned whether the projects being approved for funding are worthwhile.
- It is suggested that FinCom determines the monetary amount being left unused. It is also recommended that unused funds are assigned a "sunset date."
- Another concern mentioned regarded the expenses and rate of turnover on town equipment. There are rumors that Bedford's cast off equipment goes on to function for multiple years. It is questioned whether the town is using and maintaining equipment properly.

**Agenda Item C: Old and New Business**

- Committee assignments will be discussed at the next meeting.
- The next FinCom meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

*Adjournment at 8:37 governed by Stephen Steele, Committee Chairman.  
Minutes submitted by Michelle Racette, Recording Secretary.*